

PERTH PARKING MANAGEMENT BILL 2023
PERTH PARKING MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Report

Reports of committees adopted.

Third Reading — Cognate Debate

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Emergency Services) [5.27 pm]: I move —

That the bills be now read a third time.

HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral) [5.27 pm]: I have some brief comments. I thank the minister for his flexible responses for the sake of the officers here so that they were not detained unnecessarily. I think we covered a few good helpful points. I will reiterate the point that the opposition opposes this bill in principle, notwithstanding some clarifications given by the minister during Committee of the Whole about the contiguous projects and the inclusion of additional ferry services—which I saw announced in the paper today. The opposition would say that those sorts of services could be justified out of the existing arrangements, possibly with some minor amendments to allow for those connecting services, with certain limitations. We know that, geographically, the further we go from the city, the less benefit there is to those people who are paying the fee.

Notwithstanding all that, the considerable issue of the government's track record on reporting remains. I will not repeat them, but I raised the points of the Auditor General's report. The opposition lacks confidence in the future expenditure of this fund. We will await and watch for the sorts of projects that will be funded, given the very broad extension of the types of projects that can be funded. Ultimately, the projects must provide a benefit to businesses and local governments that are impacted by the cost imposed on the motoring public that comes into the city and that pays considerable parking fees, which are not necessarily affordable. In this time of cost-of-living rises, some significant burdens are placed on people who have no alternative—notwithstanding the provision of public transport services or for personal reasons—to travel to the city but by motor vehicle. Although the minister has been very helpful in his responses, this bill has provided us no comfort; therefore, we retain our position to not support it.

I will also be interested in watching the regulations as they come through, and I think they will be further scrutinised given the changes. We talked to some degree about charging stations et cetera. One of the challenges in our future is the motoring configuration to provide energy to electric vehicles. When that occurs, and as we move in the direction of both electric vehicles and the automation of vehicle technology—we discussed this to some extent—there might be the scope for further consideration on the negative impacts on our network because of the improvements in technology. But I guess that is a discussion for another day. I will make the point that we will be watching the regulations and making sure they work.

The last point I would make is that—again, because of the significantly increased penalties, which was a matter I stressed in the Committee of the Whole—I certainly would not want to see bodies corporate facing penalties. It is hard enough to get those bodies corporate to engage, and we rely on our volunteers to make sure our apartment living works. This is a very important part of our future growth in housing people in Perth as we move through that infill situation. Bodies corporate become a much bigger configuration of the Perth metropolitan area, yet there is an increasing burden on them. I make the point that the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has the very important job of extending information to those bodies corporate by providing them with support. That is probably something for further discussion on another day. We should not be placing the volunteers in a body corporate into the awkward position in which they may face some sort of penalty. Notwithstanding the stress that will come with it, usually those volunteers are ably supported by professional organisations that will, it is always hoped, keep their affairs in order.

Those are my summing-up points on the bills. I reiterate that we still have some serious concerns about where we are going with this. I think the minister should reflect very much on the report that was provided by the Auditor General.

Questions put and passed.

Bills read a third time and passed.